



Frazer OPI Team - Planning for Improvement January 10, 2011

School improvement is not a mystery; effective instruction is the most important factor effecting positive learning outcomes. Improving instruction requires us first to carefully look at what we now do and what we should do in our classrooms. Do we have the heart to reverse the status quo? We must be willing to remove any barriers that prevent an honest assessment of our current practices and reorient our time and energy to common sense practices that will make a difference.

Instruction News ---- Carolyn Rusche

Reading: I will continue to provide support to all teachers focusing on communication arts and math teachers.

Communication Arts: On December 7th Side-by-Side consultant, Frances Bessellieu, made an introductory visit to provide additional support for teachers. Frances's next visit is scheduled for Jan. 24th.

Math: Algebraic Thinking trainer/math coach Roy Shelton Jr. did not visit on Dec. 7th due to a delayed flight, however he did remote coaching with math teachers on Dec. 7th and Dec. 16th. His next scheduled visit is Jan. 3rd. Coaching will continue throughout the year.

My Activities: All of the math and communication arts teachers have completed an inventory to make material plans for next semester. I met with teachers to discuss attendance concerns with six students. I have continued to perform classroom observations and check for needs and offer assistance to all of the junior high and high school teachers. I attended two meetings with the superintendent, and transformational leader (TL), and community liaison (CL); two meetings with the school board coach; and daily meetings with the TL and CL; MBI meeting with Kevin Murphy and Greg Thurlow on Dec. 7th; attended the technology committee meeting on Dec. 8th; and met with Paula Kitzke, OPI Special Education Representative on Dec. 10th.

The next steps for curriculum and instructional improvement: I will analyze data on current Bridges III assessment with the superintendent, communication arts teachers, and counselor to decide about placement of these students in second semester.

Transformation News --- Jen

Cunningham:

SIG meetings have occurred regularly with excellent participation by faculty and staff. Nancy Coleman attended the last SIG meeting to provide support and direction concerning the DAP (District Action Plan). Procedures for receiving funding for approved requests was also outlined by Nancy in order to begin utilizing funding for items such as School Master and professional development for teachers. Administration, the district clerk and I will review this process and discuss other financial aspects during a conference call on January 13th with OPI official Joan Anderson to assure proper procedures are being followed as detailed in the Schools of Promise Grant. On January 13-14 all SIG members will attend training provided by OPI in Billings. Much emphasis will be placed on constructing action plans and curriculum development. Teachers and administration will receive training on January 16th on the evaluation process titled SOPPAS. I have discussed the SOPPAS process with administration and have been providing support in contracting an independent evaluator to begin the process.

School Board Involvement --- LaRae

Crowley:

December was a quick month for school with the holidays. We had a regular meeting and a special board meeting to complete the work from the first. The board is implementing a new attendance policy that will hopefully be in place at the beginning of the second semester. The new fourth grade teacher was hired by the board at a special meeting. This person should be in

place when school starts up right after Christmas vacation.

The board took part in a training video by MSBA for superintendent evaluation training. They reviewed sample evaluations for the upcoming January evaluation that will be used this year. The board will receive points for the training through MSBA.

Mr. Parker is working on an all-day board retreat to be held in January. Mr. Larry Wetsit from Fort Peck Community College will be the presenter.

Community News --- *James DeHerrera:*

As December is behind us I am looking forward to the New Year! We have had many exciting events this month which include Christmas programs, eligibility discussions, basketball, and Christmas break. As you know the weather has been closely unbearable with every event. We even joined together with some community/church members, staff and students for a Christmas caroling hay ride which was very cold for them! I was driving (YEAH). Some students, staff and church members put together the event with others pitching-in snacks, a trailer and a vehicle to pull the trailer. Santa made a stop to greet students after the Christmas program. I would like to recognize Tribal Councilman Darrel Red Eagle and Councilwoman Donna Buckles Whitmer who made separate visits to the school offering their support, meeting staff and also some students. Donnie Wetzel, OPI's Statewide Youth and Community Outreach Coordinator visited and met with some staff as well as with the Student Council. Other visitors included Nancy Coleman and Mandy Smoker Broadus.

We continue working on developing a student lounge. The students are excited for this and it is a work in progress. We need your input also. The Student Council helped me by distributing and collecting a student survey. I would like to thank Mr. Wetsit who agreed to put in time with me over the break to open the gym for students.

This was not attended very well but we were available!

I will be attending a board meeting at MTSBA in Helena on January 6th and 7th. January 13th and 14th I will be in Billings for training on Parent Involvement and also PTA. Myself and the three other Community Liaisons involved with SIG have been requested to attend the MACIE board meeting in Helena on the 28th with a working dinner preceding this meeting on the 27th.

Your input is always welcomed and needed. Any concerns please feel to contact me.

From the Helena Office -- Nancy Coleman, SIG Unit Director:

District Action Plan - (DAP) We are providing a template for writing the detailed action plans. We are also coordinating with the districts on the information required to write the ISAs (Intergovernmental Service Agreements) to expedite that process.

School of Promise Performance Appraisal System - (SOPPAS) The approved list of the people trained in SOPPAS has been given to the district. The Labor/Management team will meet and pick one or more of the listed providers to present for a contract to the board at the January meeting. The board needs to approve the contract for those services so their work can be completed by May 2011.

Overview of the Montana Behavior Initiative (MBI): This is a system approach to establish the social culture and behavior supports needed for a school to be an effective learning environment for all students. Each school has an MBI team that works to establish and teach behavior expectations. This service is being provided for the district through on-site assistance from MBI consultants with support from the SIG OPI on-site staff.

When the MBI system is in place:

- Staff are more consistent in their expectations and actions;

- Students understand and are more likely to follow rules and expectations;
- A more positive relationship exists between and among staff and students; and
- The focus is on learning.

Grant Requirements for January and February:

For the board's information we are providing a listing of things that need to be accomplished at various levels. Much of the work is a continuation from the previous month:

For the on-site OPI employees:

- Continue to provide planning for the implementation of the District Action Plan (DAP);
- Begin work with SIG District Leadership Team (DLT) to establish District Action Plans details;
- Continue to assist with organizing the collaborative Professional Learning Communities (PLCs);
- Continue to support action steps within the Montana Behavioral Initiative (MBI);
- Continue to schedule external professional development providers;
- Attend SIG meeting in Billings in January with all other SIG groups;
- Continue to provide job embedded professional development through training and coaching for all staff.

For the Principal:

- Continue to attend School Improvement Team meeting(s);
- Continue to attend and coordinate professional development of the PLCs;
- Continue to lead, along with the MBI facilitator, action steps within the MBI;
- Continue the participation with the SOPPAS (Schools of Promise Performance Assessment System) to provide support and feedback to teachers on effective instruction;
- Begin the work with SIG DLT to establish District Action Plans;
- Attend SIG meeting in Billings in January with all other SIG groups;

- Continue to monitor a system to determine 'at risk' students based on – attendance, past class grades, discipline, support systems for success (student information system); and
- Begin gathering the baseline data for last year 2009-2010 on several grant required 'indicators.'

For the District/Superintendent:

- Provide the board the name of the external evaluator that was selected by the labor/management team for board approval (teacher evaluations);
- Continue to support the implementation of the DAP through resources, etc.; and
- Continue to participate in the finance calls that are provided by the OPI once a month.

For teachers:

- Actively participate in collaborative PLCs;
- Continue to plan and implement lesson plans that include standards alignment with ongoing assessments;
- Continue to implement the programs for communication arts and mathematics with fidelity;
- Continue to actively participate in school improvement teams which you are involved with; and
- Begin the evaluation process with 3rd party evaluators.

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Statewide Youth and Community

Outreach – Donnie Wetzel: This was an excellent month for the Community Liaisons (CLs). They have developed some great relationships in the four key areas (Elders, Youth, Community, and Area organizations). They are being seen throughout the community and stepping in where needed to assist the SIG staff, teachers, youth and administrators. They took great initiative on setting things up during the break and volunteered their time, trucks, and also identified resources to assist with any events. Our main goal over the last few months was to be seen – face-to-face contact and

helping where needed. I feel relationships and trust are being built with our CLs and the communities they live in. They are a key factor in the SIG because they are the voice of the people and the youth. It will take some time to show the community and youth that we are there to help them and support them in the schools, but the CLs are approaching the low hanging fruit and winning small battles that will eventually bring better support.

We will now start to bring in more structure to the CLs. They will be receiving the Solid Foundations training that lays out an organized approach for them. We will offer them PTA training. We will be developing a calendar at each location to lay out goals and objectives for the next three months. After-school programs will be implemented as well as mentorship programs with community members and the tribal colleges. We will be approaching the Tribal Councils and other important entities on the reservation to collaborate and build better relationships. It will definitely be an exciting new year!

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programs and ways to connect our students to AP and other rigorous courses across other Montana schools. I am also continuing to develop and align the goals that have been set forth by the Federal School Improvement Grant to goals that are already in place set by the state and the districts. I am also working on building communication between teachers across multiple districts. The SIG Web site should be up and running for public display soon. I am also working on building capacity at each school site in best practices in planning for professional development with outside providers and through job-embedded approaches. Teachers working toward National Board Certification through the Take One! program will have their first meeting together on January 15th at Dull Knife College.

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SIG Field Consultant News -- Courtney Peterson:

- Assisted Transformation and Instruction Leaders with District Action Planning
- Site visits to Pryor, Lodge Grass and a site visit to Frazer November 15-16
- Coordinated visits by consultants Frances Bessellieu and Ann Ganzert
- Begin standards setting, IEFA coordination, and pacing planning for McDougal-Litell
- Research upcoming areas of implementation

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School Advocate News – Sarah Pierce:

Wrapping up the year and semester means planning ahead for the future. I have several projects that I am currently working on to help student achievement. Currently I am researching summer school programs, credit recovery